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THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST--24 APRIL 1964

1. SOUTH VIETNAM:

A. VIET CONG MILITARY ACTIVITY, WHICH HAS BEEN RISING STEADILY SINCE LATE FEBRUARY, IS STILL GOING STRONG.

B. FOLLOWING LAST WEEK'S FIVE-DAY BATTLE IN CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE, THE VIET CONG LAUNCHED A SERIES OF COORDINATED ACTIONS AGAINST GOVERNMENT OUTPOSTS ALONG THE MEKONG RIVER.

C. THEY ALSO STEPPED-UP HARASSMENT OF RIVER AND ROAD TRAFFIC AROUND SAIGON.

D. ON 22 AND 23 APRIL, VIET CONG FORCES AMBUSHED GOVERNMENT TROOPS IN HAU NGHIA PROVINCE, WEST OF SAIGON, INFLECTING SIZABLE LOSSES; AMONG THE CASUALTIES WERE ONE AMERICAN KILLED AND THREE WOUNDED.

E. THE GOVERNMENT'S REACTION TO THE MAJOR VIET CONG ATTACKS HAS BEEN SWIFT BUT COSTLY.

F. MORE THEN 1,000 GOVERNMENT CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED LAST WEEK--THE HIGHEST WEEKLY TOTAL RECORDED IN THE PAST THREE YEARS. BY COMPARISON, THE AVERAGE WEEKLY CASUALTY RATE WAS APPROXIMATELY 250 IN 1962 AND 390 IN 1963.

G. THE VIET CONG, TOO, HAVE SUFFERED HEAVY LOSSES--660 KILLED OR CAPTURED LAST WEEK.

H. HOWEVER, THEY ARE STILL DOING WELL IN THE ARMS DEPARTMENT. THEY CONTINUE TO CAPTURE THREE WEAPONS FOR EVERY ONE LOST, THE RATIO THAT HAS PREVAILED THROUGHOUT THIS YEAR.

2. LAOS:

A. THINGS HAVE SETTLED DOWN FOR THE TIME BEING.

B. THE COUP GROUP IN A STATEMENT YESTERDAY SAID THAT SOUVANNA'S GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO EXERCISE ITS DUTIES.

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C. HOWEVER, THEY CALLED UPON THE PREMIER TO "REWORK AND EXPAND HIS GOVERNMENT," ACTING UPON RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL DEFENSE. THIS COMMITTEE IS ALSO TO "OVERSEE THE EXECUTION OF GOVERNMENT TASKS."

D. THE PRESS THIS MORNING SAYS SOUVANNA HAS AGREED TO THESE TERMS AND WILL STAY ON.

E. THE PATHET LAO OBVIOUSLY ARE NOT GOING TO LIKE THIS AND IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW THEY WILL REACT.

F. THEY MAY WELL WAIT THINGS OUT A BIT AND SEE HOW SOUVANNA CHARTS HIS COURSE AND IF HE HAS ANY FREEDOM OF MANEUVER.

G. IF WORST COMES TO WORST THEY CAN ALWAYS ACTIVATE THEIR OWN SHADOW GOVERNMENT IN PHONG SALY.

3. ZANZIBAR:

A. KARUME AND HANGA ARE REPORTED TO HAVE AGREED TO TRANSFER BABU AND HIS TWO PRINCIPAL LIEUTENANTS TO INNOCUOUS POSTS, BUT THEY DO NOT WANT TO MOVE TOO FAST.

B. THE TANGANYIKANS ARE NOT GOING TO PRESS THEM HARD ON THIS. THEY ARE FEARFUL OF ROCKING THE BOAT AND ARE ALSO A BIT SENSITIVE ABOUT SOVIET BLOC REACTION.

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D. BABU WILL PROBABLY BE RETURNING TO THE ISLAND BEFORE UNION WITH TANGANYIKA CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED. WHEN HE GETS BACK ALL BETS WILL BE OFF AGAIN.

4. YEMEN:

A. NASIR WENT TO YEMEN YESTERDAY FOR THE FIRST TIME. WE DO NOT KNOW THE PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT.

B. IT MAY BE SIMPLY TO CHEER UP THE EGYPTIAN TROOPS THERE AND SPUR THEM ON TO GREATER EFFORTS AGAINST THE ROYALISTS.

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C. ON THE OTHER HAND NASIR MAY WANT TO LOOK OVER THE YEMENI GOVERNMENT FIRST HAND TO SEE IF ANY RESHUFFLING WOULD IMPROVE IT. HE HAS NEVER BEEN TOO HAPPY WITH SALLAL.

D. IN HIS FIRST SPEECH, HOWEVER, NASIR WAS OFF ON A DIFFERENT TACK. HE SWORE TO EXPEL BRITAIN FROM ALL PARTS OF THE ARAB WORLD AND TO "CONFRONT ZIONISM, STOOGES OF IMPERIALISM."

E. SALLAL, PLAYING THE GOOD HOST, REFERRED TO NASIR AS "THE GREATEST MAN IN THE WORLD."

5. BRITISH GUIANA

A. VIOLENCE BROUGHT ON BY THE PROLONGED SUGAR WORKERS' STRIKE MAY EVENTUALLY REQUIRE THE INTERVENTION OF BRITISH TROOPS.

B. THE STRIKE IS TAKING ON A MORE PRONOUNCED POLITICAL AND RACIAL CAST. THERE WERE SEVERAL SERIOUS INCIDENTS THIS WEEK BETWEEN EAST INDIANS AND NEGROES.

C. THE POLICE BELIEVE THAT SOME OF THIS IS THE WORK OF A TERRORIST GROUP ADVISED BY SIX TO EIGHT CUBAN-TRAINED YOUTHS.

D. OUR CONSUL FEARS THAT EVEN IF THE STRIKE ENDS, THE VIOLENCE WILL CONTINUE THROUGH THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN LATER THIS YEAR.

6. NOTES:

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D. CONGO: THE REBELLION IN KWILU PROVINCE IS STILL ON AND OUR AMBASSADOR THINKS IT MAY CONTINUE ALMOST INDEFINITELY. FOUR CONGO ARMY BATTALIONS ARE TIED DOWN THERE LEAVING THE ARMY HARD PRESSED TO CONTAIN DISORDERS ELSEWHERE.

E. CHINA: PEIPING HAS ALREADY BOUGHT ALMOST FOUR MILLION TONS OF GRAIN THIS YEAR AND WILL PROBABLY EQUAL LAST YEAR'S MARK OF 5.9 MILLION TONS (WORTH ABOUT \$350 MILLION). OVER HALF OF THE GRAIN WILL COME FROM AUSTRALIA AND CANADA AND A LARGE SHARE OF THE REMAINDER FROM ARGENTINA AND MEXICO.

F. CUBA-US: CUBA HAS HANDED A NOTE TO THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL SAYING IT WILL NOT TOLERATE US OVERFLIGHTS. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS THE LETTER DID NOT SPECIFY WHAT THE CUBANS WOULD DO ABOUT THE FLIGHTS. WE DO NOT YET HAVE THE TEXT.

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